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HARDING
U N I V E R S I T Y

BATTLING AN OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Searcy joins lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies

JAISA HOGUE
opinions editor

At the Searcy City Council meeting on Jan. 9, a resolution was passed that decided the city would be joining nearly all of Arkansas' county governments to be part of a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors.

The resolution ends with the statement expressing that the city recognizes the "acute need to address the opioid crisis in this state and wishes to do so by joining the efforts of other risk management pool participant members to bring litigation against those responsible."

City Alderman Logan Cothorn serves as a member of the city council and said that some of the main reasons for entering into this lawsuit were because it addressed a significant issue affecting the nation, and because the council felt that the lawyers chosen were both capable and of good repute.

"I just think it's an important problem that we have across the country, and we really need to address it," Cothorn said. "I think everybody was on board pretty quickly."

Cothorn said he has also personally known people who have struggled after becoming addicted to opioids, including his own son, who is now in addiction recovery.

"It's a prescription pain medicine and it's become so readily available," Cothorn said. "(My son said), 'Dad, I could leave this house and within five minutes I could make a purchase of opioids.'"

According to the Arkansas Times, the lawsuit, initially formed by the Arkansas Municipal League, the Association of Arkansas Counties and the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association (APERMA), claims that the pharmaceutical companies listed as defendants were guilty of deceptively marketing painkillers. It also claims they have persuaded doctors to overprescribe medication by downplaying the risks of opioids and overstating the benefits. The lawsuit claims this error has led to a public health crisis.

Graduate pharmacy student Alan Jacobs said that, at first, he did not understand the point of suing the manufacturing

companies, but that it could help to eventually show the importance of creating more regulations on opioids.

"The manufacturers are just the supply of it, where it really comes down to the physicians ... and the pharmacists who move it into the public," Jacobs said. "Having pressure on (manufacturers) might put pressure on someone else to put better regulations out."

While Jacobs said he sees the problem as mainly on the prescriber level, he said he also attributes some the problem to patients failing to be actively involved in their health or uneducated about the medication they take.

"Often, I think people like to think about the health system as just going to a doctor to be told how to become better and then going to a pharmacist to get what they were told to get," Jacobs said. "When the patient isn't playing an active role in their own health and they're just letting the health system act of them, that's when problems like these arise."

Jacobs also said during his time working with the Searcy community, he has known people whose friends or family members struggled with addiction to opioids and that it is good for students to be informed of the problems in the community.

"It's good to know about the community around you," Jacobs said. "I think it should be a wakeup call to students to be more vigilant personally towards their family and themselves and make sure that they're not as susceptible ... to becoming addicted."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arkansas has the second-highest opioid prescription rate in the country, with an average of 114.6 prescription painkillers per 100 people in 2016. The Arkansas Department of



Graphic by **DARRIAN BAGLEY**

Health reported about 108 opioid-related deaths in Arkansas last year.

Of Arkansas' 75 county, 69 governments were included in the lawsuit, as of Feb. 2, according to an article posted by the Southwest Times Record.

At the city council meeting where the resolution was passed, Mayor David Morris supported the council's decision when introducing the resolution.

"When the Association of Arkansas Counties, the Arkansas Municipal League and APERMA ... as well as the attorneys that represent those three entities ... all come together to recommend something ... we should listen, and that's exactly what I think you all have done," Morris said.

According to Cothorn, if the lawyers are successful, the participants, including the city of Searcy, will get a portion of the money recovered from the lawsuit. Cothorn said the council recognizes that the money could be used for various things. One possibility he supports is using it to help those addicted by supporting rehabilitation centers struggling with having enough funding to treat everyone in need.

"I think one of the greatest needs is to help those rather than condemn," Cothorn said. "Of course, I've got a personal interest in this, but rather than condemning these people, (we should) try to help them address their addiction problem, and with help, there is hope for recovery from it."

Gathering creates community for storytellers



Photo courtesy of **ASHEL PARSONS**

Writer **Hannah Brencher**, public relations professional **Monique Cooper** and storyteller and illusionist **Harris III** present on stage in the **Ulrey Performing Arts Center** during the 2017 **Story University** gathering. **STORY** will return for the second time Feb. 23 and 24 and will be held in the **Reynolds Recital Hall**.

NORA JOHNSON
news editor

Story University, a subdivision of the **STORY** Gatherings based in Nashville, Tennessee, will be held in Little Rock on Feb. 23 and at Harding on Feb. 24.

STORY, a self-identified "uncommon creative community for storytellers," hosts a conference in Nashville each year inviting storytellers of all walks of life to learn from and be inspired by other storytellers. Story University is a version of the **STORY** Gathering designed for college students.

According to Andrew Baker, director of the Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry, the idea to bring **STORY** to campus came after Baker and a group of Harding students attended the **STORY** Gathering in 2016.

"Harris III, (storyteller and illusionist), who is responsible for **STORY**, is a really good friend," Baker said. "We just talked one day and I said, 'There's a real niche for this for

college students.'"

Together, Baker and Harris, organized the first Story University at Harding in 2017. The event was held in the **Ulrey Performing Arts Center** and hosted speakers such as Brad Montague, the creator of the online sensation **Kid President**, and Hannah Brencher, TED speaker and author of "If You Find This Letter."

"I think students who attend will find it to be extremely beneficial," Baker said. "Especially if they're in the business in believing in the power of stories."

Michalíe Brown, social media coordinator for admissions, attended the Nashville **STORY** Gathering and assisted in the development of Story University in her time as a student. According to Brown, there is something at the conference for every audience.

"It's not just an academic conference," Brown said. "You go and it's fun ... and you are going to walk away inspired and wanting to be the best version of yourself."

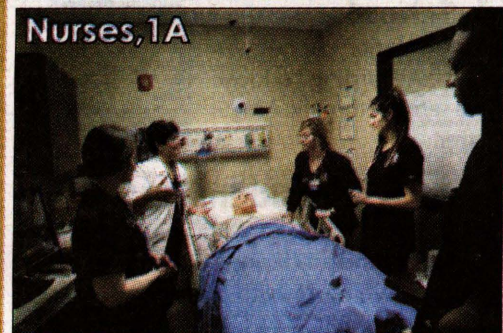
Speakers from the larger **STORY** conference in Nashville are invited to present at Harding's event. This year, presenters at Story University include executive Disney producer, Don Hahn, spoken word poet Amina Brown, former creative director at Marvel Entertainment Group Jim Krueger, and storyteller and illusionist Harris III.

Senior Jake Black attended Story University at Harding in 2017 and plans to attend again this year. Black, a computer science and leadership and ministry double major, said that he was inspired by the powerful stories of the presenters.

"Story University (helped) me grasp my story," Black said. "Whatever major, whatever goal, whatever I choose to do in life, I have a story that is worth telling and so does everyone else."

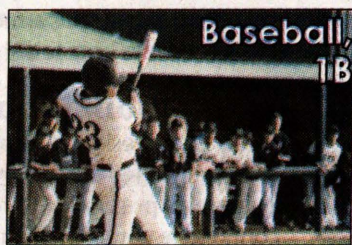
The event is open to the public and tickets can be purchased for \$25 by calling the Mitchell Center for Bible and Ministry at (501) 279-4660. Students may also register for one hour of Bible credit.

Nurses, 1A



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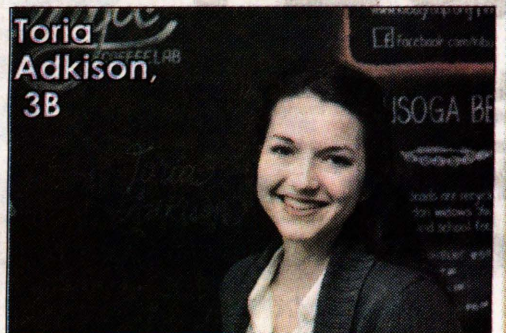
Baseball, 1B



Golf, 2B



Toria Adkison, 3B





Courtesy of JEFF MONTGOMERY
Debbie Majors, clinical associate of the College of Nursing, practices skills with junior nursing majors Anna Taylor and Bailey Shelton. The program was recently named best in the state.

College of Nursing ranked best RN program in Arkansas

ANNA CARR
student writer

Last month, Harding's registered nursing program was ranked the best in the state by RegisteredNursing.org, a national organization, with a score of 97 percent, based on historical and current NCLEX pass rates. Twenty-six colleges were up for the award. Last year, Harding was ranked second, but this year received the highest honor in the state.

Director of Nursing Admissions Jeanne Castleberry, has been working with the nursing program since 2005 and advises all pre-nursing and nursing students. Castleberry said she was thrilled to find out about the accomplishment. According to Castleberry, the program has had a 100 percent NCLEX pass rate for the past two years.

"I was so proud," Castleberry said. "It just shows how knowledgeable our students are and how much hard work they put into this. (The students) are so successful in what they do — they really do go out and make a difference in the world."

Senior nursing student Julie Plunket said that it is a challenging major, but it is the most rewarding thing she has ever been a part of.

"There is not a program that deserves it more than

this one does," Plunket said. "The teachers deeply care for each student and they teach us how to provide holistic care for each patient and family member that we come in contact with. The teachers not only work hard to help us pass the NCLEX but to be servants in every aspect of our career."

"(The students) are so successful in what they do — they really do go out and make a difference in the world."

- Jeanne Castleberry, director of Nursing Admissions

Sophomore nursing student Makayla Smith has also been a part of the program since her freshman year. Like Plunket, Smith said that it takes a lot of time and dedication, but it is worth the reward received in the end.

"I am so proud that our school is being recognized at such an honorable level," Smith said. "We can continue to be the best in the state if we work. ... Hard work does stand out, and the program definitely deserved to be recognized."

Those in the Carr College of Nursing often say that, though nursing is a difficult and time-consuming occupation, it truly is a rewarding job.

HUmanity hosts Freedom Week

SAVANNA DISTEFANO
editor-in-chief

HUmanity, a student-led organization focusing on human trafficking awareness, will be hosting its annual Freedom Week to educate students about trafficking. Several events and activities are scheduled from Feb. 19-23.

Senior Evan Pratt, HUmanity president, has been involved in the organization for three years. He first heard about it through a chapel announcement and said he could not turn his back on the opportunity to become involved in anti-trafficking.

"We're at Harding, and there are a lot of things you can get involved in, and it's very easy for this particular issue (not to be) talked about because it is something that's uncomfortable," Pratt said.

"It should make us uncomfortable, because it's a challenging thing to acknowledge ... I think it's important to have the compassion and vulnerability to face some of the difficult things in our world and, as a community of mission, to talk about that together and develop an action plan for what to do about it."

HUmanity will be joining the Student Association's party in the stu on Monday. They will be distributing fair trade coffee and tea. In the evening, members will meet with students for a "freedom cafe" in the Kibo room of Kibo Midnight Oil coffeehouse to further discuss fair trade facts and opportunities.

Wednesday, the organization will show a human trafficking documentary in the Swaid Center for Health Sciences. The film will be followed by a discussion led by sophomore Hayley Baca, vice president and social media coordinator for HUmanity. Baca said she has worked with

trafficking survivors and hopes to use her experience to end the crime.

"I believe the most important part of this event is the educational side that we get to bring to raising awareness for human trafficking," Baca said. "It is a problem for America and it happens in our own backyard. Everyday girls, boys and adults are being trafficked through the internet and trapped into slavery. If we all just became more aware of the events happening around us, then we could work together in creating ways to prevent, rescue and restore broken lives."

On Thursday, HUmanity will be writing red x's on students' hands to represent human trafficking advocacy. In 2017, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reported more than 13,800 calls regarding trafficking cases. At least 80 calls involved Arkansas.

HUmanity will host a panel in the Reynolds Recital Hall to discuss the prevalence of trafficking in the U.S. and worldwide on the Friday of Freedom Week. Senior Riley Jones, treasurer for the organization, said this is what he is looking forward to most.

"I think the most influential part of Freedom Week is just telling people that it exists and it doesn't just happen 'over there,' wherever that is, but rather that it happens even in Searcy, Arkansas," Jones said.

Pratt said the purpose of Freedom Week is not only to spread awareness, but also to connect people to organizations where they can be involved in helping human trafficking survivors and victims. According to Jones, students have the ability to help end the underground crime by spreading the word.

"If you do come, please come back," Jones said. "The more people that are too scared to do something ... the more we need people to speak up about it."

Organizations team up for women's conference

EMILY NICKS
student writer

The Office for Church Relations will host a free women's conference on Feb. 23 and 24 in association with Multicultural Student Services (MSS) and the Black Student Association (BSA). The conference, titled "For Christian Girls," will be led by five women from Atlanta and will focus on topics facing many Christian women, including depression, domestic violence and healing after hurt.

Alexander Jamerison, director of diversity, said this event will be a first for the university in many ways. Jamerison said he looks forward to the precedent it will set.

"We don't have African-American perspective necessarily being spoken into our university from this type of position," Jamerison said. "This is something that we need to do. ... for the women on campus ... and just for the university as a whole to start moving us in a direction that we need to go."

LaShaun Wright, trustee board member, is the founder of For Christian Girls. She is the daughter of Howard Wright, who in 1968 became one of the first two black students to earn a degree from Harding and now serves as a member of the board of

trustees. Wright will be one of the five women to speak at the conference. Jamerison said the women have impactful stories to share.

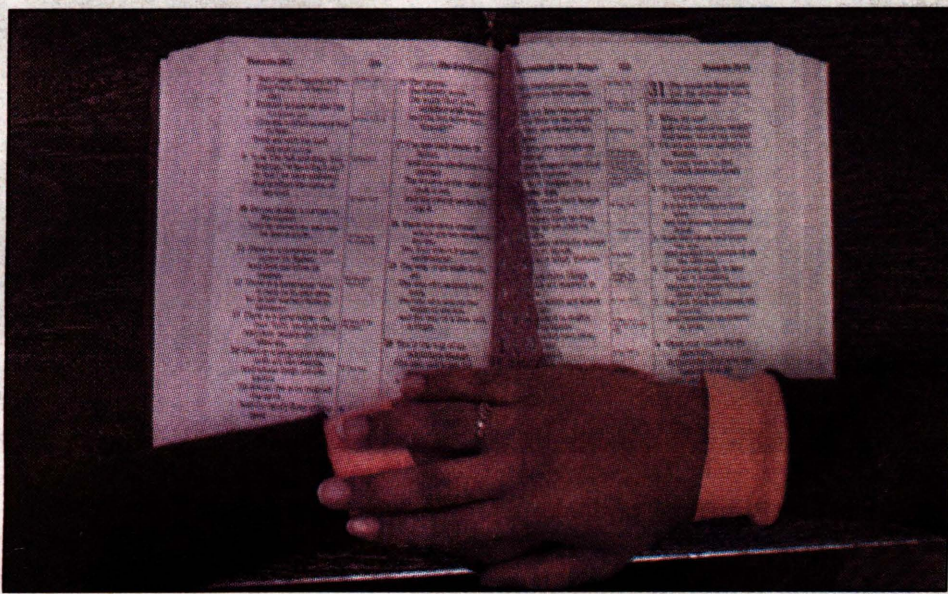
"They have something to offer," Jamerison said. "Not just their African-American perspective, but their spiritual perspective and their life experience. That's the kind of the thing that I hope people will get from this."

Tiffany Byers, director of MSS, said she thinks this event will be an encouraging experience of fellowship and growth for the women who attend.

"For Christian Girls conference is important because issues that affect women are often overlooked," Byers said. "It is my hope that women at Harding will be empowered to persevere beyond whatever struggles they have."

Junior Makayla Twigg, event planner for BSA, said she is excited to attend a spiritual conference led by black women.

"With the speakers being African-American, it will just be different from what we usually hear here at Harding," Twigg said. "I think that it's good to hear different people. ... with different perceptions, especially for us as black students hearing somebody that might've come from the same kind of place as us."



EMILY GRIFFIN | The Bison

For Christian Girls will begin on Friday, Feb. 23 and continue through Feb. 24. The conference will be hosted by the Office for Church Relations in collaboration with Multicultural Student Services and the Black Student Association.

Twigg said she thinks this event will be especially powerful for African-American women, but that it is open to all.

"Every time we have an event, people think that just because it's Black Student Association hosting it, that only black people can come," Twigg said. "That's not the case.

... It'll just be a different perspective for them to see."

The conference will begin on Friday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., and continues on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. Registration is open until Feb. 19. To register, visit harding.edu/churchrelations.

**BEYOND
THE BUBBLE**
NEWS FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



State | Flu Fatalities Continue to Rise

Several more flu-related deaths were reported last week by the Department of Health, bringing the estimated total number of deaths to 140. This has been Arkansas' deadliest flu season in the last 17 years, according to the U.S. News and World Report.

National | Shooting at Florida High School

A former student opened fire on students and teachers in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14. According to local authorities, the 19-year-old gunman was armed with a semi-automatic AR-15 rifle and killed at least 17. He was arrested shortly after.



International | South Africa's President Resigns

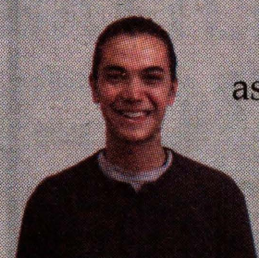
Jacob Zuma resigned as president of South Africa after nine years in office. After prolonged allegations of corruption and a faltering national economy, Zuma was pressured to resign by his own party with the threat of a no-confidence vote in parliament, according to BBC News.





Different perspectives: Aziz Ansari

He is not a predator



asst. copy editor

justin duyao

“Twenty-four hours ago ... Aziz Ansari was a man whom many people admired and whose work, although very well paid, also performed a social good,” Caitlin Flanagan, a contributing editor for The Atlantic stated in an article. “Now he has been — in a professional sense — assassinated, on the basis of one woman’s anonymous account.”

The event to which Flanagan refers occurred last month, when a 23-year-old woman told a staff writer from the feminist website, Babe.net, the story of “the worst night of her life.” It began as a date with the comedian and actor and ended with her holding back tears “in the hallway, outside his place, pressing the down button on the elevator.”

The woman said, “I cried the whole ride home. ... I felt violated.”

According to her report, she met Ansari at a party a few weeks before, and eventually the two went on a date — one which very quickly moved to Ansari’s apartment.

“In a second, his hand was on my breast,” the woman said.

According to her account, Ansari continued “aggressively kissing” her and attempting to engage in intercourse for the rest of the evening.

“You ignored clear, non-verbal cues; you kept going with advances,” the woman texted Ansari the following day. She later admitted that she never asked him to stop. “I know I was physically giving off cues

that I wasn’t interested,” she told Babe. “I don’t think that was noticed at all.”

“I’m so sad to hear this,” Ansari responded. “Clearly, I misread things in the moment and I’m truly sorry.”

This story has been publicized as another regrettable #MeToo story, but I see a problem here. Ansari’s behavior is not at all the same as those alongside whom he has been shamed. More succinctly, Ansari is not a predator.

Sexual assault is no small issue. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, an average of 321,500 sexual assaults occur each year in the U.S. alone. That’s an outrage. Sexual assault is a violation of one’s most sacred space, a blatant undermining of intimacy and trust.

Sexual harassment is a thoughtless, inappropriate move in the same direction and is no less undermining.

“Sexual misconduct,” Ansari’s indictment, is the umbrella term referring to any sexual offense that involves a disregard of consent. But is it right to consider Ansari’s case one of sexual misconduct? Or was it, rather, a bad date? “Bad sex,” as Bari Weiss of The New York Times termed it.

“Lumping him in with the same movement that brought down men who ran movie studios and forced themselves on actresses, or the factory-floor supervisors who demanded sex from female workers, trivializes what #MeToo first stood for,” Weiss said.

Harvey Weinstein, George H.W. Bush, Louis C.K., Kevin Spacey: these men have been accused of sexual misconduct, some by five women, some by more than 80. They might be termed “sexual predators.” But it’s important to make a distinction between a “sexual predator” and “bad sex.” Ansari is absolutely a product of our culture — our over-sexualized and

desensitized culture. He was aggressive, obnoxious and selfish all throughout the encounter.

But he is not a sexual predator.

Assume for a moment that Ansari is telling the truth, that their sexual activity was, as he said, “by all indications completely consensual.” If this is true, then the fact that the anonymous woman would disagree represents an issue not of sexual assault, harassment or misconduct, but of miscommunication.

It’s worth noting again that the woman never voiced that she did not want to do the things she did. Thus, our conversation should not be about the #MeToo movement. It should be about sex.

People need to make their language exact in every situation. Society needs to understand what is and isn’t sexual misconduct. Outcast who deserves to be outcast, but no further. And when it comes to sex, people should know what they want, know exactly what they don’t want and protect those boundaries.

“The feminist answer is to push for a culture in which boys and young men are taught that sex does not have to be pursued as if they’re in a pornographic film,” Weiss said, “one in which girls and young women are empowered to be bolder, braver and louder about what they want.”

#MeToo empowers victims to tell their stories, to step out of the shadows and advocate for themselves. The case of Aziz Ansari, however, concerns the pursuit of safe, trusting and healthy relationships. It concerns communication, it concerns confidence. But we won’t go anywhere until we understand these issues before us and address them accordingly.

JUSTIN DUYAO is the assistant copy editor for The Bison. He may be contacted at jduyao@harding.edu.

He is part of a bigger problem



editorial asst.

hannah hitchcox

In the midst of the #MeToo movement, advocacy for consent has become louder than ever. Seemingly untouchable men have been unraveled and outcast because strong women and men alike have vocalized their testimonies of sexual trauma at the hands of an ever-increasing list of household names — Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Matt Lauer, Larry Nassar — and now Aziz Ansari.

In case you missed it, one of these cases is not like the others.

The fairly recently published testimony accusing Ansari of sexual misconduct has raised a plethora of questions about the vocabulary surrounding sexual misconduct and the line between heinous crimes like Weinstein’s and seemingly well-intentioned but non-consensual acts similar to Ansari’s.

The accusations took the world by surprise, not only because of Ansari’s comedic nature, advocacy for minorities and support of the #MeToo movement, but because Ansari, in a way, represents the Everyman. The court of public opinion quickly banged the gavel to condemn obvious predators like Spacey and Nassar, but many individuals have found themselves in ambiguous circumstances like Ansari, causing many to hesitate in casting the first stone.

While the accusations against Ansari do not demand legal action, they have alarmed many due to the familiarity of

the scenario — we are taught that “no” means “no,” but many take silence at face value, or no value at all, until after the fact.

The events that took place on Sept. 25, 2017 during the anonymous woman’s date with Ansari were obviously not enjoyed or consensual, but because of them, important conversations have been fostered about consent, communication and boundaries.

First of all, sexual trauma is sexual trauma, period. No matter the situation, no matter if they said yes initially: it is the duty of each individual to ensure that the other person is actively and voluntarily participating in the activity taking place.

According to vocabulary.com, the Latin verb “consentire,” from which we take the word “consent,” literally means “to agree” or “to feel together,” emphasizing the value and importance of every action we take playing a part of a collaborative process.

There have been whispers of fear among men who see the recent findings on Ansari to be stirring hysteria and oversensitivity as to what constitutes sexual harassment or trauma.

Specifically, I have heard many males comment that they are afraid that women will choose to engage in sexual activity, and, if discovered, claim it was rape in order to safeguard themselves.

If the man’s primary fear is being accused of rape, the conversation needs to continue, if nothing else, for the millions of women who have been sexually assaulted by individuals who had no fear to begin with. The irony of these recent revelations is increasingly bittersweet — men are now on the cusp of tasting the same paralyzing fear most women feel on a daily basis.

This anonymous testimony will undoubtedly be put on a shelf that holds other sex scandals that are now collecting

dust, but Ansari’s has changed the direction of #MeToo, and has sparked a conversation about the amount of agency women have in similar situations.

Emma Gray, a senior women’s reporter for The Huffington Post, noted that the conversation currently being circulated is not only worth talking about — it is vital to growing from the current circumstances of women.

“Behavior need not fall under the legal definition of sexual assault or rape to be wrong or violating or upsetting,” Gray said. “We step into interactions, sexual or otherwise, with different ideas of what constitutes a violation.”

What happens next starts with you. We cannot afford to step on eggshells on this sensitive topic; real change starts with everyday norms changing. The problem isn’t “somewhere out there,” it’s in our student center, our sidewalks, our classrooms. Being informed and practicing affirmative and enthusiastic consent not only protects individuals, it also ensures that both parties are wholly enjoying the experience within the boundaries they establish.

HANNAH HITCHCOX is the editorial assistant for The Bison. She may be contacted at hhitchcox@harding.edu.



BRAVER THAN YOU BELIEVE

jaisa hogue

Vocab lessons

Last Friday, I was standing in front of my dresser in my dorm, shoving a pair of jeans into my duffel bag to go home for the weekend. Despite being in a bit of a hurry, I stopped for a second, when I noticed the framed photo on top of my dresser. It’s me and my little brother when we were 7 and 3. We both look so young and small, the two of us hanging on a railing at a park that I don’t remember. He’s smiling wide enough to show his dimples, and I think about how long it’s been since I’ve seen that smile.

I also thought about some weird words I’d learned a few days before. I read them somewhere on the internet and, although I’m pretty sure they are completely made up, I liked them enough to jot them down in my little notebook. The first one is “adomania,” it’s the idea that the future is coming quicker than it’s supposed to, or coming ahead of schedule. The second is “senosyne,” the sense that time keeps going faster.

These two words applied perfectly to my feelings looking at that photo. That Friday was also my brother’s 16th birthday. Thirteen years after that photo was taken, I still see him as that cute but annoying little 3-year-old with short spiky hair and big brown eyes. But now his hair is longer than mine, and I have to ask him for help reaching dishes in the cabinet.

I finished packing and got in my car to drive home. Google Maps said the drive would take an hour and 15 minutes, but it didn’t feel very long at all.

I didn’t get to see my brother much this past weekend because he recently got a job and was working practically the whole time. All I could think was that I couldn’t believe he has a job — he’s so young. But on Saturday night, I went to the high school production of “Footloose” because he was playing in the pit orchestra. He plays the clarinet, and he’s so talented. He’s only a sophomore, but he’s already so much better than most of the other students in the band. I know, I’m biased, but I have proof. There’s this competition for high school bands in Arkansas. This kid got 16th chair, first band. In other words, he’s the 16th best clarinet player in all the high school bands in Arkansas.

The play was good. Mostly what you would expect from a high school production with plenty of faulty mic moments and a few actors that outshined even the leads. But instead of listening much to the lines, I was trying harder to hear the clarinet. When it was over, he came up the aisle to say hi to all the family that came to see him play. I watched as he talked to our older brother and smiled wide enough to show off those dimples.

It wasn’t a big deal, and the moment didn’t last long, but right then, I remembered the third word I scribbled in my notebook.

“Kariosclerosis.”

It’s supposed to describe that moment when you realize you’re happy, right there, in that moment, at that time. As I stood in the aisle of Love Auditorium, my family laughing and people rushing around us toward the exit, I felt that. I was happy.

There are several reasons why I’m scared by the idea of time moving so fast — adomania or senosyne, whatever you want to call it. The first is that I don’t know what I’ll be doing in the future, and I don’t feel prepared. I don’t have a plan yet. The other is that I feel like I’m missing things. My baby brother just turned 16, and I have no idea how that happened. I feel like I’ve missed him growing up. Maybe I was there for a lot of it, but then I left for college and all of a sudden he was someone different. But when I saw him last weekend, already 16 and employed, I realized that I’m having so much fun watching him grow up and getting to know him all over again.

JAISA HOGUE is the opinions editor for The Bison. She may be contacted at jhogue@harding.edu. Twitter: [JaisaDanielle](https://twitter.com/JaisaDanielle)

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Awakening our ‘Great Hunger’

Tererai Trent grew up in a rural town in Zimbabwe, then known as Rhodesia, during colonial rule. She did not have the opportunity to go to school. Instead, she was married with three children by age 18. Today, Trent holds a Ph.D. and two master’s degrees from the U.S. and is a women’s empowerment leader and education advocate. She attributes this to a strong desire, a little luck and a solid rock.

In her book, “The Awakened Woman,” Trent writes that each person has a “Great Hunger” inside of them, waiting to be awakened. This originated from a parable told in her village as a child, which illustrated that we all have a “Little Hunger” that consists of material desires as well as a “Great Hunger” that is the hunger for a life with meaning.

Trent writes, “The Great Hunger is liberating and energizing; it enables us to move beyond immediate gratification and toward fulfillment. The Great Hunger inspires us, leading us to discover new ways to grow, give and help others. If you tap into the Great Hunger, you will awaken your sacred dream.”

I am intrigued most by the idea of “awakening” our meaning in life. Do we wait for people, or God, to reveal our place in the world, or is it our job to discover it within ourselves?

“The most powerful practice for finding your Great Hunger is to ask yourself this simple question: what breaks my heart?” Trent writes. “When we listen to what makes us ache and breaks our hearts, we find our Great Hunger, our sacred purpose.”

Whatever it is that breaks our hearts, living a life to intentionally advocate or find a solution to that problem is where we will find meaning. Is it poverty? Inequality? Assault? Mental illness? Wonder about it, meditate on it and brainstorm how to do something about it.

For Trent, the oppression of women in Zimbabwe broke her heart. Generations of women before her were survivors of abuse, rape and polygamous marriages. She said that it seemed like women in her village just accepted lack of respect and opportunity was a way of life — unchangeable.

After fleeing her adulterous and abusive husband, Trent met a women named Jo Luck from Little Rock, Arkansas. Luck was then the president of Heifer International, a nonprofit that fights hunger and poverty worldwide. She had come to Trent’s village where she spoke about Heifer and listened to women’s struggles in Zimbabwe. While sitting in a circle of women with Trent by her side, Luck turned to Trent and asked what her dreams were. Trent said this was the most pivotal point in her life — the point where she first declared her desire for education.

“If you desire and believe in your dreams then they are achievable,” Luck told Trent. Trent’s “Great Hunger” was awakened. She would pursue an education and use it to invest in her Zimbabwean community, alleviating the plight of girls and women.

In true Zimbabwean fashion, Trent wrote her dream down on paper, sealed it in a can and buried it under a rock. This symbolized that her dreams were now planted, and she was committed to ensuring they bloomed, while always being rooted in the hometown she planned to invest in.

I think the world will become great again when we awaken our “Great Hungers.” What breaks your heart and where will you plant the blueprints for your future?

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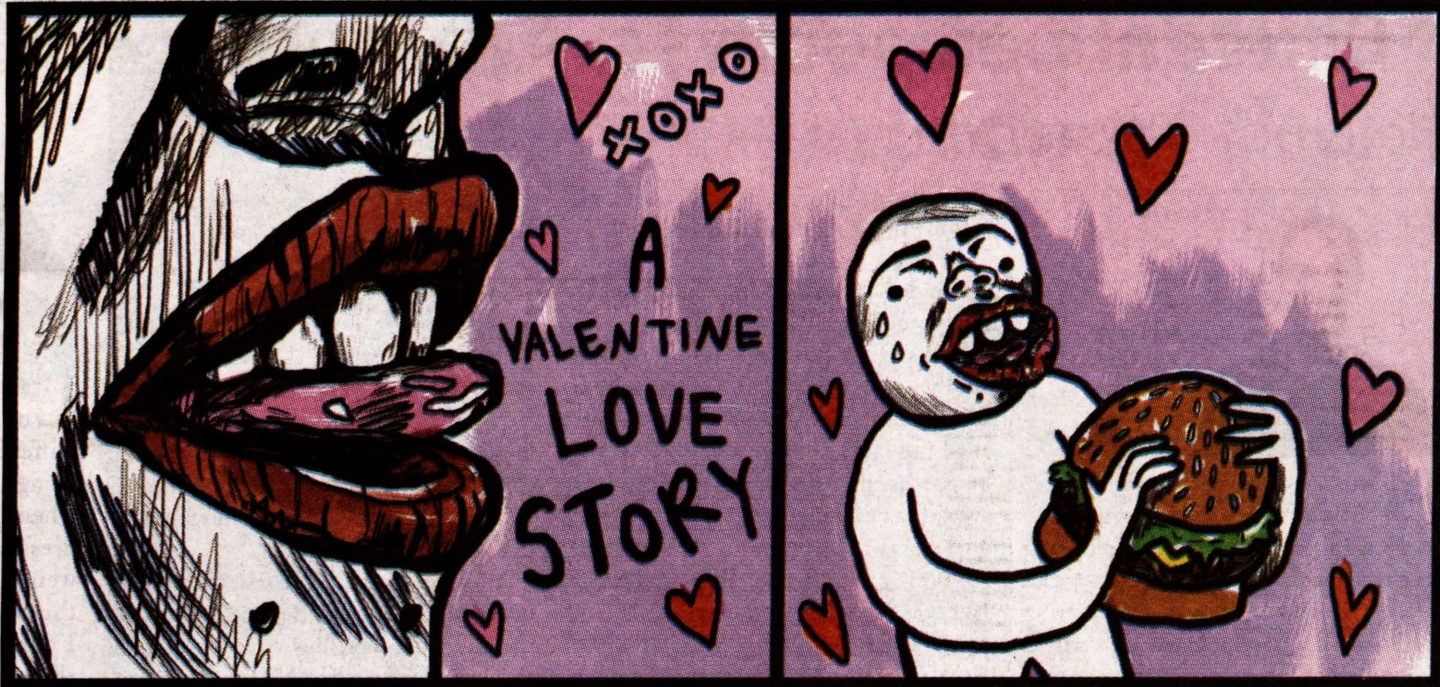


Illustration by RACHEL GIBSON

It means more

In one of Dodge Ram’s commercials, the inspirational words of Dr. King’s speech were used to advertise trucks.

This commercial upset me for two reasons: It was released in the early weeks of Black History Month, and it used the meaningful words of Dr. King’s speech to advertise a product.

Honestly, I cannot wrap my mind around why Ram thought it was a good idea to use a historically-charged speech, made during a time when African-Americans were being discriminated against and treated as less than human, for the use of advertisement. Dodge trucks were never shot at with water hoses, shouted at for attempting to integrate schools, assigned to a different water fountain for “health reasons,” or killed for their color.

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,” King said.

King’s dream was for all people to come together, to treat each other like humans and to grant everyone the same rights, regardless of their skin color. Throughout history, African-Americans have had to fight for their rights and for their perceived humanity. When Dodge

used King’s speech, it diminished the point that he was trying to make. Now, his speech is an advertisement. Its powerful message was turned into something to sell trucks.

We live in a time in which NFL players kneel during the national anthem and are publicly shamed for it, yet it is OK for a car company to use a speech that still impacts people to this day.

Yes, I know that it is just a commercial, and yes, I wish that it had not bugged me as much as it did; but I feel that if we do not confront companies for the mistakes they make, particularly in advertising, then we as a society are not growing or learning from our mistakes.

Ram’s faux pas should be a lesson to companies to never use speeches like “I Have a Dream” as an advertisement, because this speech means so much more than selling trucks. It means equality, peace and love.

BOWMAN JOHNSON is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at bjohnson5@harding.edu

What’s Your Opinion?

Want to write an opinion for The Bison? Contact Jaisa Hogue at jhogue@harding.edu to voice your opinion through The Bison newspaper.

Just the Clax

Crowdfunding

One of my favorite stories from the vaudeville era involves the magician Frank Van Hoven. There’s no reason anyone would know his name today, but a century ago he was a popular comedian. His act was pure slapstick, with very little actual magic, but audiences loved it just the same. A nutty character on and off stage, Van Hoven knew how to get publicity.

Once he was performing in a town where two of his nephews lived. He paid them each \$5 to meet him at the theater after his last performance. After the last show of the day, he packed his bags and headed out of town. That’s when the nephews earned their money. As the car drove away, both boys ran after it for half a mile shouting, “Don’t leave us, Van Hoven! Don’t leave us!” Of course, the newspaper mentioned it.

This kind of hype is an old show business tradition. In T. S. Eliot’s famous poem “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” the self-deprecating speaker claims at one point that he is not “Prince Hamlet,” meaning that in the great drama of life, he is no tragic hero. But he could be an extra, he says, someone who would do to “swell a progress.” That’s Elizabethan talk for “standing around onstage to make a crowd look bigger.”

The practice of inflating crowds with rented actors was never limited to the theater. Funerals in the 19th century often featured paid mourners; people who made a living showing up in their



michael claxton

finest black garb to follow a hearse to the cemetery and cry loudly. These folks seldom knew the deceased, but they were hired by families who didn’t want to be embarrassed by a low turnout at the memorial. Oliver Twist gets a gig like this in Dickens’ famous novel.

Advertisers thrive on this sort of thing. For years, McDonald’s kept a running tally of its total number of customers — “42 billion served” — and frequently changed the number under the golden arches. In 1994, after half a century of hawking hamburgers, the company surpassed the “99 billion served” mark and announced that it would no longer update the sign. There comes a point when enough is enough, especially when your tally resembles the national debt clock.

Politicians have not been above spending a little campaign cash to hire people to show up at their rallies (or to heckle an opponent’s rally). And activists have not been above accepting this cash in exchange for adding to the headcount. It’s all part of the game. I certainly would want to be paid to listen to some politicians talk.

Even churches are not immune. When it comes to Sunday attendance, everyone

knows what a “preacher’s count” means.

So, I suppose in the digital age it was inevitable that we would get Devumi, a Florida company that is currently under investigation for selling fake followers to celebrities, sports stars and advertisers. A master of aggregate identity theft, Devumi’s crime is stealing names from Twitter and other social media platforms and selling the bundle to the highest bidder, who then gets a whole lot of instant friends.

The high friend counts on Facebook and LinkedIn and so forth have always struck me as the silliest form of vanity — filled as they usually are with acquaintances, friends of acquaintances, distant relatives, hangers-on, relatives of the hangers-on, people we’ve met once, people our friends have met once, names from headstones and other assorted party crashers who do not know the person claiming them as friends any more than he knows them.

So, until the company gets indicted, Devumi will keep helping us pad our resumes with fake followers who are yet one more step removed from our real circle of friends. Frank Van Hoven would have loved it.

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a guest writer for The Bison. He can be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.

At the Bison, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves. We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: Report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, timely manner. If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the Bison staff, please email Savanna DiStefano, the editor-in-chief, at sdistefano@harding.edu. “The Bison” (USPS 577-660) is published weekly (except vacations, exams and summer sessions), 20 issues per year, by Harding University. Periodicals postage paid at Searcy, Arkansas 72143. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Bison, Harding University 11192, SEARCY, AR 72149-0001.” BYLINE POLICY: The Bison provides an opportunity for class writers to contribute work under the byline “guest writers.” Due to this arrangement, staff writers may rewrite a portion of the guest writers’ stories as they deem necessary, while still identifying the work as the guest writers’ own.

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THE
GRAND
SLAM
emily
faulkner

A case of spring fever

I think spring is a hard season mostly, because it is a time of growing. The fall semester is easier – you are excited about school still and, at the end, you have Thanksgiving and Christmas to look forward to.

Spring is different. It is crazy and more hectic. It is your last semester of the year and at this point, you are just trying to finish the year. The motivation to do anything is at an all time low. Not to mention Christmas, the most wonderful time of year, is nowhere in sight.

The final days of winter seem to drag on. January and February seem longer than normal, and tests are piling up out of nowhere.

But, there is some good in spring. Growing can hurt, but it can be beautiful in the end. Even though it has already been kind of painful, I am excited to see what is just around the corner. Despite its difficulties, spring is actually my favorite season.

Spring fever is defined as a feeling of restlessness and excitement at the beginning of spring.

I like to think that I have spring fever year round, waiting for spring sports to get into full swing.

What's not to love about longer days, more sunshine and summer being around the corner? Oh yeah, and spring sports are kicking off.

With the start of the season, there is still uncertainty about when the nice weather will be here to stay. Some days still have ice or cold rain.

That's how the start of the season is. There is a lot of uncertainty, even though you've been practicing and preparing for this moment for an entire off season.

Instead of being trapped in mundane practices, you just want to go out against the competition. You want to watch your hard work come to fruition you have that spring fever.

February has always marked an odd time in the calendar for sports. The fall sports are finished, with the exception of basketball, but the spring sports are just starting. Right now, it is simply a waiting game.

While baseball's longest break between games is three days, women's golf does not play until April. Baseball has 33 games scheduled until then. I cannot imagine waiting until April to start, as an athlete.

Softball has had a week off from games from Feb. 9-16. Men's tennis has had five days off and women's tennis six days off. Sometimes a break helps, sometimes it hinders.

Spring sports all depend on the weather. If it is pouring rain or just too wet, baseball, softball, tennis and golf cannot compete. Softball and baseball have already had this issue affect multiple games.

The frustration of having to wait it out can be a game-changer. The momentum can swing greatly due to rain delays.

In addition to the rain, the temperature fluctuations are crazy. It can be 80 degrees one day, then 30 the next. The average low for February is 29 degrees, where the average high for May is 81. Spring sports' postseasons can last into June.

February is already more than halfway over. It is almost midterms and spring break is around the corner. And yet, women's golf doesn't play until April.

Spring fever to me is the itching feeling that every single game matters. When you are in season, it is go time – it is now or never. You don't get a lot of second chances when you are in season.

Whether you are playing in over 50 games or only five, make the most of every single one.

EMILY FAULKNER is the head sports editor for The Bison. She may be contacted at efaulkner@harding.edu.

Doubleheader win makes for strong start



STERLING MCMICHAEL | The Bison

Sophomore pitcher Austin Allen pitches against St. Edward's University on Friday, Feb. 9. The Bisons lost their first game of the doubleheader 1-4. They bounced back to top St. Edwards 3-1 in their second game.

YOVANI ARISMENDIZ
student writer

The baseball team played their second series of the season in a doubleheader against St. Edward's University last Friday at Jerry Moore Field. The Bisons divided victories and now have a record of 4-3.

The Bisons lost the opening game 4-1 in nine innings. Redshirt sophomore infielder Brooks Pitaniello scored for the Bisons in the bottom of the eighth inning thanks to an RBI by senior infielder Grant Guest.

Harding won the second game 3-1 in seven innings. The Bisons tied the game 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth through sophomore catcher Miles Humphreys, who scored from the third base after graduate student infielder Will Francis hit a single to right center. Francis would later score the leading run after sophomore infielder Connor Kelly hit a double to right center.

Guest scored the last run of the game after hitting a home run in the sixth to secure the second victory for the Bisons this season. Junior pitcher Tanner Smith earned his first win in two starts, allowing only four hits and one earned run in five innings.

Harding and St. Edward's were initially scheduled to play a three-game series, with a doubleheader on Saturday and the last

game on Sunday, but the series was moved to Friday and Saturday due to the weather. The final game was canceled due to the rain. Head coach Patrick McGaha said having games canceled and rescheduled has been an issue for the players, especially the pitchers.

"It makes it harder to get into rhythm with your pitching staff, especially the starters, because you have those guys set up knowing they are going to pitch a certain day," McGaha said. "It messes with their throwing schedule, but we have been able to manage it."

McGaha also said he was proud of the players, especially on the second game, because of the way they battled to bring up the score. Guest said many players have stepped up to help the team.

"It is going to be exciting to see what guy comes up big on different days," Guest said. "We have the ability to play a lot of guys in different positions. This season will take all of us working together, and I could not be more ready to watch it happen."

Redshirt senior Zach Beasley said the victory against St. Edward's helped the team see how good they are and what they need to improve before the beginning of the conference season.

"They are consistently a top 25 team," Beasley said. "It was a good to get out there and face some good arms on the mound and get a win against a really good team before conference play."

The Bisons will play their first conference game against Northwestern Oklahoma University on tonight at 6 at Jerry Moore Field.



EVAN SWEARINGEN | The Bison

Then freshman Autumn Humes hit a ball against Southeastern Oklahoma State University on April 1, 2017. The Lady Bisons had a historic season making it to the NCAA Super Regionals. Their ending record was 58-9.

Games prove women can handle whatever gets thrown their way

CAYLEIGH THOMAS
student writer

The Lady Bisons softball team won 3-1 in their first tournament of the season at the University of Arkansas Monticello (UAM) Softball Challenge in Bentonville, Arkansas Feb. 8 and Feb. 9.

The Lady Bisons started the tournament against Missouri Western State University. The team won 4-0, and sophomore pitcher and first baseman Amanda Berry had her first career shutout.

For seven members of the Lady Bisons softball team, the tournament was their collegiate softball debut.

"This team is very different from the team from last year," junior outfielder Peyton Mills said. "We have had to learn to play together and work hard to be a unit."

During the second game of the tournament against Emporia State University, freshman Katlyn Gordon hit her first collegiate home run. They ended the game 4-6.

"I'm so proud of our team after this weekend," senior infielder and catcher Madi Trump said. "We didn't hit our best, but we found ways to win, which shows how dynamic our team is."

In the third game against Northwest Missouri State University, the

Lady Bisons won 1-0. Mills scored the run during the fourth inning when she stole second base and was assisted by sophomore catcher Katie Carney, who drove Mills on a single.

"There were times when the game was close and the pressure was on and we handled it well," sophomore outfielder Lindsey Duncan said. "I know we will do the same the rest of the season."

The team ended the tournament with a 5-2 win over the University of Central Missouri. The game was tied until the sixth inning, when the Lady Bisons broke the tie by scoring three runs in three hits. Freshman infielder Madison Leggett hit her first collegiate home run in the final game.

The Lady Bisons ended the tournament 3-1, and Duncan said they were able to see the aspects of the game they need to work on.

"Before the season, we spent some time and came up with some words to describe what we want our team atmosphere to be. One of these words is resilient," Mills said. "We want to focus on never letting adversity set us back. We will always work together and be the best we can be."

The Lady Bisons play Saturday, Feb. 17 in Hays, Kansas, against Upper Iowa University at 10 a.m. and Fort Hays State University at noon.

TEE TIME IN THE SPRING

Men's golf ready to build off successful fall season



HALEY HOOD
student writer

The men's golf team is ready to get back in the swing of things and start their spring season. With the cold of winter behind them, the players are strong and ready to take on some of the most difficult courses.

Last year's season was led by red shirt senior Alex Williamson, who went on to become First Team Great American Conference Selection. The team also had their highest finish, making it to postseason play in the GAC championship and placing fourth. Individual players had advanced to championship play in the past, but never as a team.

Alex Williamson is the only player not returning to the team this year, but the team has learned from his past leadership and is now stronger than ever.

Senior Mason Banger is one ready to lead. According to head coach Dustin Howell, Banger is ranked second in the region and has propelled into the top 100 in the nation averaging below par for the year. He has secured two individual wins and a team victory as well. In 2017, Banger was selected as an Academic All American along with Alex Williamson and senior Juan Luis Sanchez.

Banger said he lives his life by a quote he created: "Excuses are made by those who can't accept failure as a step closer to success."

He went on to explain that it means working hard and taking everything that comes as a learning experience, because hard work makes a difference. Banger also said he is determined to do what it takes to move closer to his personal success and looks forward to watching his team succeed too.

"I'm excited to see how well the team plays," Banger said. "We play on some great golf courses that have hosted major championships — Kiawah Island and Oak Tree National, just to name a few. We have been working hard on and off the golf course and there have been a lot of good scores in qualifying. It will be exciting to travel again and play against the very best."

Junior Ryan Williamson said he is also looking forward to the Kiawah Island and Oak Tree National tournaments.

"I am very excited for the team and this opportunity we have to get the chance to go to these incredible courses," Ryan Williamson said.

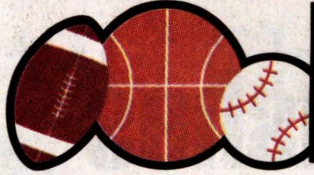
Alongside Banger are seniors team members Alan Anderson, Logan Handy, Cameron Murry and Sanchez. Howell said that the seniors have played a crucial role in the team's success.

"Everything as far as success this year has been led by the senior class," Howell said. "It will be difficult losing this class, but I am very excited for what they have in store for the championship portion of our season."

The men's golf team will be hosting a home tournament at Red Apple Inn in Heber Springs, April 16-17.

Photo courtesy of DUSTIN HOWELL

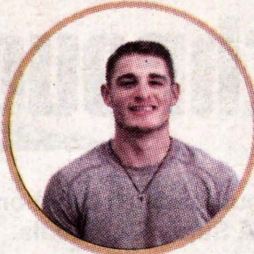




Senior Mason Banger competes in the Holiday Inn Express Classic at Missouri Western State University on Oct. 9 -10. The Bisons won the 20-team tournament and Banger finished third individually, shooting 2-over 213. The spring season tees off on Feb. 19 at the Newberry College Invitational in Kiawah Island, South Carolina.



LOCKER TALK

HARDING ATHLETES' VIEWS ON

POP CULTURE

	 Grant Guest baseball	 Davis Atkins track	 Davon Hulse track	 Savanna Russell track	 Hayden Walraven baseball
What are your thoughts on Valentine's Day?	True love is the soul's recognition of its counterpart in another.	I can't dislike a day involving chocolate strawberries.	Valentine's Day is overrated.	It's overrated, but I won't turn down free chocolate.	It is magical.
What is the way to your heart?	Second star to the right and straight on till morning.	Dogs, always dogs.	Food and energy drinks.	Good food and music.	Little Debbie Cupcakes.
You can win over your crush with one sentence, what do you say?	Do you want to get sushi?	Let's get wings. I'll buy!	Four plus four equals eight, but you plus me equals fate.	Have you seen this Vine?	Call me Uber, because I'm here to pick you up.
What age will you let your kids start dating and why?	16. Once they can drive themselves.	Probably about 15, but it depends on the kid!	Age 14 for sons but never for daughters.	Around 14 or 15, depending on who they wanted to date.	Whenever for boys, but 21 for girls.



Spreading love and recognition 'Just Because'

SARAH BRISTER
student writer

Zach Neal, dean of students, recently started a series on Facebook to highlight people who have influenced or made an impact on his life. The series is titled "Just Because." It has featured five people so far, including his brother Colby Neal, brother-in-law Justin Brown, cousin Ernie Parsons, social club brother Wes Howard and algebra teacher JoAnn Haustein.

Zach Neal ...
January 27 at 8:37 PM

You should know my big brother Colby Neal. If you have a need, this guy will literally drop what he's doing to help. He's a problem solver & approaches life with a very practical, straight forward lens.

Zach Neal said he generated the idea from going to memorial services and hearing the encouraging things said about the person after they passed away.

"I think all of us, whether we admit it or not, are fueled by encouragement," Zach Neal said. "It doesn't just affect the person that you're speaking about. It also influences the people that are hearing the words that you're sharing."

Zach Neal said he wanted to let the important people in his life know how they had influenced him before they leave this earth.

"This is a cool platform to not just tell the person how I feel about them but to allow so many other people to hear about how much an individual has made an impact on me or the influence that they've had on me and in my life," Zach Neal said.

Zach Neal ...
January 30 at 8:10 PM

You need to know Justin Brown. He and his family have weathered their fair share of storms in life. No matter the day, he got up and took one step at a time trusting God. He gave even when most opinions would say he shouldn't.

The first "Just Because" entry Zach Neal wrote was posted on Jan. 27 and featured his older brother, Colby Neal.

Colby Neal said the post came as a surprise to him and has inspired him to live a more encouraging life.

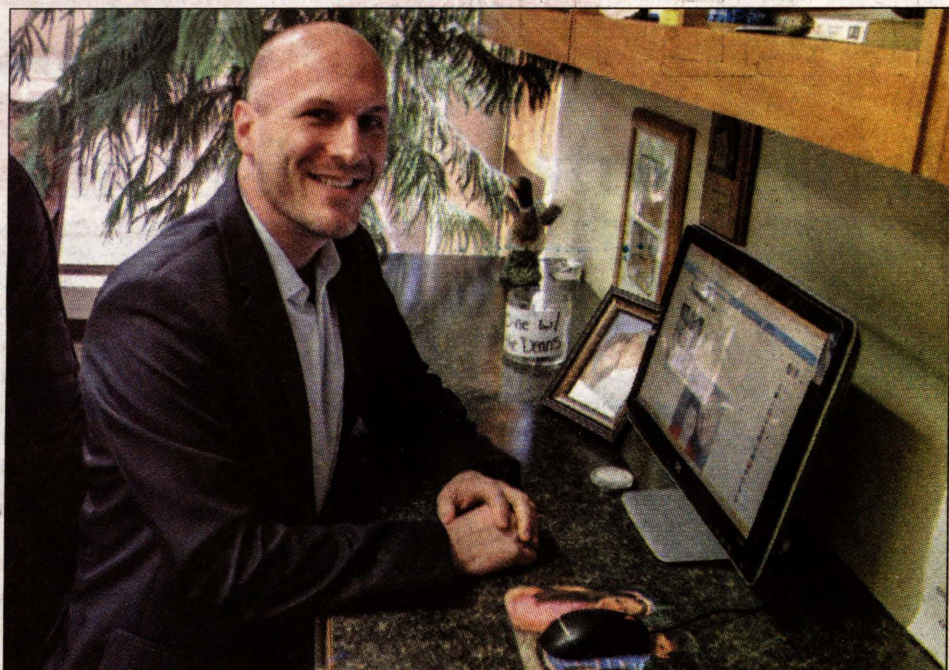
"It is always a great feeling when someone brags on you with no hidden agenda," Colby Neal said, "(It is) even better to hear things that you do not always see in yourself."

Zach Neal ...
February 4 at 6:08 AM

You need to know Ernie Parsons. I promise you'll be a better person for it. ... A man among men and one who strives to do right. Loves his family. Protects others. I truly believe he is an example of one who walks with God.

Zach Neal's brother-in-law Justin Brown was also featured. Brown said he and Zach Neal have been friends and provided support for each other over the years, but the post came as a nice surprise to him as well.

"I've got a ton of respect for Zach, and not just because he's family," Brown said. "For him to say what he said was a huge compliment."



RYANN HEIM | The Bison

Dean of Students Zach Neal sits at his computer Feb. 12 with his latest installment of his 'Just Because' series pulled up on Facebook. The series is meant to highlight the impact made by those who have impacted his life.

Zach Neal said he has benefited personally from sharing encouragement and hopes to empower students and others to take time to encourage people in their lives, whether it be over social media, in person or through written notes.

Zach Neal ...
February 8 at 9:17 PM

If you haven't met Wes Howard then I'd have to say the nicest guy you've ever met is second place. He is as genuine as they come and has never met a stranger.

Zach Neal ...
February 11 at 7:40 AM

If you know her, you love her. JoAnn Haustein is the very essence of joy. She's quick to smile & her laugh is contagious. She makes math fun (seriously!).

Zach Neal said he welcomes students adding him on Facebook to keep up with "Just Because." He plans to write more posts; however, he does not have a schedule of those he wants to highlight because he wants to be able to spontaneously write when someone crosses his mind.



EMILY GRIFFIN | The Bison

Junior Toria Adkison poses Feb. 13 with the chalk art she designed in Kibo Midnight Oil Coffeehouse, where she also serves as a barista and baker. Toria Adkison's favorite chalk art to design is the wall calendar that features events and untraditional holidays.

Student by day — baker, barista, chalk artist by night

RAIANNE MASON
features editor

Junior Toria Adkison is known at Kibo Midnight Oil Coffeehouse (MO) as a jack of all trades. She serves as a barista, baker and chalk artist for the local business.

Toria Adkison said she made the decision to work at MO when she was still in high school.

"I managed a coffee shop in my high school (in Ohio)," Toria Adkison said. "I grew to love coffee making, chalk board design and baking. I wanted to continue those things when I was leaving for college and Midnight Oil seemed to be the perfect fit. I bugged the manager until he gave me a job and I moved down to work a week after I graduated high school."

According to Toria Adkison's brother, alumnus Trey Adkison, Toria Adkison's love for art began when they were both kids.

"Toria has liked art ever since I can remember," Trey Adkison said. "She started off drawing cartoons when she was young, and then had the opportunity to take art classes outside of school to pursue other types of media."

Toria Adkison said she began art classes in fourth grade and continued throughout her schooling.

"When I used to do art in middle school and high school, I always loved using pastels, and chalk art feels like an extension of pastel art," Toria Adkison said. "I love chalk art because of its flexibility. If you mess up, you can just erase it."

According to alumna Tandy Jackson, a fellow barista at MO, the chalk work on the walls is essential to the brand and atmosphere of MO.

"Toria's chalk art not only announces special offers, (and gives) clarification for the 'Kibo' part of Kibo Midnight Oil ... but also contributes to the creative atmosphere at MO with her specific fonts, colors, graphics and funny holidays included on each month's calendar," Jackson said.

Manager and barista Jared Davenport said Toria Adkison has a lot of freedom in the design aspect of the wall art.

"Toria and I discuss different ideas that we feel should be posted on the wall based on what information we would like the public to know about, such as our local partners, Kibo projects and featured coffee roaster," Davenport said. "She, however, decides on her own the calendar designs and a lot of the special days."

Toria Adkison said the calendar is one of her favorite pieces to design each month. She said she enjoys the freedom she has in its

design, as well as hearing customers use the fun holidays as conversation starters in line.

According to Jackson, the calendar is also fun for the employees of MO.

"I personally am a big advocate for the calendar," Jackson said. "The baristas sometimes help look up the random fun holidays for each month, and I always look forward to seeing what holidays will be there. The customers always ask us about the various events on the calendar, and it is fun to connect with them over the goofy holidays."

Toria Adkison is also in charge of baking all of the desserts MO sells, which includes fruit tarts, cupcakes and all gluten-free options. She said the only thing she does not make is the cakes.

Each week Toria Adkison works three baking shifts, two barista shifts and does chalk work in her spare time.

"I would be lying if I didn't admit that it is challenging to balance everything," Toria Adkison said. "Some seasons are busier than others ... (but) even though those times are busy, they are some of my favorite because we get a fresh start. I get to experiment a lot with both the chalk boards and the baked goods."

Davenport said Toria Adkison balances her work while striving to do a good job.

"I have never worked with someone so driven and focused," Davenport said. "She is the employee that does 100 times more than she is asked to do and doesn't ever complain about it. My favorite part about working with her is that she makes my job run more easily and smoothly."

Jackson said Toria Adkison seeks to give clients more than just a cup of coffee.

"Whether we are extremely busy or there is just one customer in line, she somehow takes the time to connect with the person, make a quality drink and somehow still help the situation be calm for her coworker, as well," Jackson said. "Every employee at MO has their good qualities, but having a shift with Toria means that chores, drinks and washing dishes will get done, while also creating an environment where people feel important and valued."

According to Trey Adkison, what sets Toria Adkison apart is not her many talents, but her genuine care for the people she serves.

"At work she cares about her customers and takes time to get to know them," Trey Adkison said. "I think she realizes that caring about others is so much more important than just making a cup of coffee, and that is what makes her good at doing her job."



GARDEN BROS CIRCUS

ZACH BISSELL
student writer

Searcy will host the Garden Bros Circus at the White County Fairgrounds on Feb. 21.

The circus has over 60 cast members from 18 countries. Each 90-minute show is in a theatrical European three-ring style. Acts include trapeze artists, elephants, contortionists, clowns, jugglers, motor-cycle acrobats and horse riders. The show's jugglers appeared on "America's Got Talent."

"We chose to come to Searcy because we have built a great rapport with them over the last several years," a spokesperson from Garden Bros Circus Co. said. "We love to see the awe in our crowd's faces with all the acts we bring to town."

The circus began by contacting fairgrounds manager Cookie Jackson who booked the venue and set the date.

"We perform at 280 different locations each year. There is no other circus group that performs at that many places," executive director Jim Davis said. "Searcy is a great place because not all people want to drive to a big city."

Garden Bros will be the first live circus senior Rachel Shearon has attended. She is looking forward to experience.

"I have always had misconceptions about what a circus even is, but now that it's coming to Searcy, I'm excited to see it," Shearon said. "This is an event that students may not have an opportunity to see very often."

The experience is also new to senior Nathan House.

"Though I've never actually been to a circus, people have told me all my life that I should be in a circus," House said. "I've always imagined circuses as places where acrobats do crazy things like ride on elephants and jump into a

pool of sharks."

Shearon's interest began after watching P.T. Barnum's circus on the big screen.

"Ever since I saw 'The Greatest Showman,' I have really been wanting to go to a circus," Shearon said. "That movie was very inspiring, and I would love to see how a real-life circus experience measures up."

House anticipates extraordinary acts and believes that Harding students should consider attending.

"Harding students should consider going because it provides a unique experience about things you don't see in everyday life," House said.

The circus will perform two shows beginning at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets sell for \$12.50. The circus will be performing in other locations in Arkansas, including Little Rock, Fayetteville and Fort Smith. Learn more at www.gardenbroscircus.com.

Graphic by **SAWYER HITE**

Resume problems? We've got you covered.

MATTHEW KING
student writer

Resumes play a vital role in applying for jobs, and building one can be intimidating. Thankfully, there are resources on campus to help students with their resumes, such as the Career Center and the Center for Professional Excellence (CPE).

Butch Gardner, director of the (CPE), said that a resume is like a marketing tool or a movie trailer. Applicants are trying to quickly market themselves for whatever they are applying for. "We tend to want to put everything that we've ever done on a resume," Gardner said. "(But) most professional hiring managers are not interested in what you did in high school."

Gardner also suggested students avoid putting pictures or personal information on resumes.

"Contact information is the most personal you want to get," Gardner said. "Which is name, phone number, email address, and physical address."

Brian Harrington, Director of the Center for Professional Excellence, said that an important tip on tweaking a resume is making sure there are no spelling or grammatical errors.

"Every tiny little thing

that you do wrong in a resume is just one little check mark against you," Harrington said.

Harrington said students with extracurricular activities on resumes set them apart. He said numbers also catch employers' eyes.

"Incorporate numbers into your bullet points, because it represents a quantifiable result," Harrington said. "A recruiter is going to stop and read a bullet point more likely if it has a number on it."

Senior Braden Bowman recently took a senior seminar class for communications majors and learned about building resumes and cover letters.

"Research your potential employer first and know what the business stands for," Bowman said. "What kind of company you're hoping to work for depends on what your resume looks like."

The Career Center has free resume building software available online called Optimal Resume.

"All you do is go and put your information in the space where the current information is and switch it out, and it becomes your document," Gardner said. "I can tell right away when they've used the Optimal, because my time spent on those resumes is going to be cut down."

All Harding students and alumni also have free access to Handshake, a website where users can find jobs and schedule appointments with recruiters.

For more information on resume building, email the Career Center at careercenter@harding.edu or the Center for Professional Excellence at cpe@harding.edu.



EMILY GRIFFIN | The Bison

Wild Child exceeds 'Expectations' with new LP

SAM ALY
guest writer

In a time when popular music seems to be developing without a shred of remorse for its own hyperbole, an indie pop band that displays thoughtful restraint in its innovation can make a bold statement in a subtle way. It is for this reason that Austin-based band Wild Child should be honored for their latest release, "Expectations." The album feels like a successful continuation of Wild Child's tracklist, not a deviation.

"It feels sustainable," vocalist Alexander Beggins said in a 2013 interview with AXS — a digital marketing platform for purchasing tickets for sports and entertainment events in the U.S. and overseas. "It feels like the more fans we acquire, we kind of take them along for the ride with us. It's a group effort. Slow growth, but the growth that we want."

Five years later, their newest album certainly lives up to that aspiration. "Expectations" introduces variety and rock influences to the band's arrangements while retain-

ing the sound from its earlier releases. The 2018 album relies less on duets between Beggins and Kelsey Wilson, a combination which defined earlier albums like "Fools" and "The Runaround."

Wild Child is known for their relatable, genuine lyrics that explore the possibilities and shortcomings of romance. "Expectations" follows this same pattern. The words "you" and "I" make up 10 percent of the album's lyrics as Beggins, Wilson and the rest of the seven-piece band seek to delve into the obscurities of love.

Rather than attempting to organize the album's wide range of engagements with the trials of romance as a linear story, it is best interpreted as a series of independent cross-sections of points in various relationships, emotionally examining those aspects which contribute to their health, or lack thereof. These include self-consciousness and doubt ("Alex" and "Think It Over"), self-worth ("Eggshells"), sexual intimacy ("Follow Me"), struggling with and finally accepting failure ("Sinking Ship" and "The One") and moving on ("Leave It Alone" and "Goodbye and Goodnight").

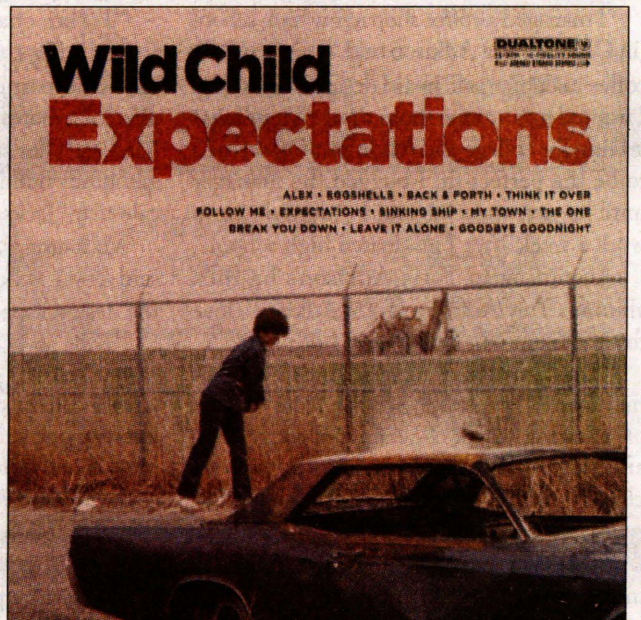
The album's titular track showcases a passionately misguided character expecting to change her partner into who she wants him to be. With a voice yet unheard by fans, the song climaxes as a fiery, passionate side of Wilson as she exclaims, "You can't possibly give what I want from you."

As the character expresses her frustration that her vision for the relationship can never be fulfilled, the listener wonders whether her temper is focused as resentment towards her partner or dissatisfaction with her own unchangeable expectations.

The album uses heavier instrumentation to punctuate these themes. With "Break You Down," the band engages with idea of losing trust in a partner. Songs like "Back and

Forth" and "The One" describe the pain of realizing too late the need to end an unhealthy relationship. The raw, honest emotion of the lyrics, coupled with catchy hooks, make for a detailed, powerful collection of stories which demand attention.

If another band had produced an album of this quality, a dedicated fan might worry about the follow-up being equally as powerful. But Wild Child's canon of evolving lyrical achievement ages like wine. With "Expectations," what might have been a crescendo of musical innovation feels like a single, brilliant movement within a larger work, one that I hope will continue for years to come.



Album artwork courtesy of **GENIUS**

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